

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WIWRIGHT

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S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING APRIL 10,
1974:

QUOTE: Q: GEORGE, YESTERDAY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN
ITS ANNUAL POLICY REVIEW HAD AN UPBEAT NOTE ON AMERICAN
RELATIONS WITH INDIA. THEY ALSO SEEMED TO BE WELCOMING
A NEW MATURE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP. I WONDER IF THIS
GOVERNMENT IS NOW PREPARED TO RESUME ECONOMIC AID WITH
INDIA.

A: WELL, I THINK IT HAS ALREADY BEEN SAID PREVIOUSLY,
SOMETIME AGO, THAT WE HAD EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO THE
INDIANS TO DISCUSS THE BASIS FOR POSSIBLE U.S. ECONOMIC
ASSISTANCE TO INDIA. A GOOD DEAL OF IMPROVED RELATIONSHIP
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HAS GONE ON OVER THE PAST YEAR. AS YOU KNOW, THE RUPEE

CLAIM HAS BEEN SETTLED. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE TREND. HOWEVER, AS FOR SPECIFIC TALKS ON AID, SUCH TALKS HAVE NOT YET BEGUN IS MY UNDERSTANDING. NOW, AS YOU KNOW, AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN, WHO WOULD NORMALLY BE LEADING SUCH TALKS FOR US, IS CURRENTLY IN THE U.S. HE WILL BE GOING BACK TO INDIA OVER THE WEEKEND. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING MORE PRECISE THAN THAT.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE INDIA-PAKISTAN-BANGLADESH AGREEMENT AT NEW DELHI WHICH RESULTS IN THE RETURN OF 195 WAR PRISONERS?

A: WELL, CERTAINLY WE VERY WARMLY INDEED WELCOME THIS NEW AGREEMENT.

Q: JUST BACK TO THE INDIAN QUESTION ONCE MORE -- THE INDIANS REPORT THE ONLY THORN IN RELATIONS IS DIEGO GARCIA. IN LIGHT OF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE NOT GIVING APPROVAL FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET AUTHORIZATION, HAS THERE BEEN ANY CHANGE IN THE AMERICAN POLICY ABOUT GOING AHEAD ON DIEGO GARCIA'S BUILD-UP?

A: NO CHANGE.

Q: COMING BACK TO DIEGO GARCIA, HAVE THE BRITISH INFORMED US ABOUT THE RESULTS OF THEIR REVIEW?

A: I DON'T THINK SO. I HAVE NOT HEARD ANYTHING TO THAT EFFECT. KISSINGER

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